

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 093490

R 161055Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2904

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUANDA 0733

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI AO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE ARMY CLAIMS VICTORY OVER LARGE FNLA
INFILTRATION GROUP

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: LUANDA 726

1. BANNER HEADLINES IN AUG 14 LOCAL PAPER CITE AUG 11
VICTORY BY PORTUGUESE AIRBORNE TROOPS OVER GROUP OF 180
FNLA INFILTRATORS WHO WERE COMING FROM ZAIRE TO
"INFILTRATE ARMS INTO LUANDA." THE BATTLE TOOK PLACE NEAR
TOTA (100 MILES NW OF CARMONA). THE ARMY CLAIMS TO HAVE
KILLED 10 AND CAPTURED 18, ALONG WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF
ARMS. THE REMAINDER OF THE GROUP FLED INTO HEAVY FOREST, WHERE
THEY WILL "STARVE."

2. ARMY CLAIMS MANY OF THOSE CAPTURED SPEAK NO
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PORTUGUESE AND REFER TO THEM AS "ZAIANS," ALTHOUGH

ARMY ADMITS PARENTS OF CAPTURED TROOPS WERE BORN IN ANGOLA. IN INTERVIEWS WITH CAPTURED TROOPS, THEY TALK OF BEING FORCED INTO SERVICE AND OF HAVING COMPATRIOTS DIE OF STARVATION ON MARCH FROM BASE IN KINKUZU. PARATROOPERS SAY MANY SEEMED TOO EXHAUSTED AND STARVED TO RESIST AND SURRENDERED WITHOUT A FIGHT.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE LARGEST "BAG" FOR THE PORTUGUESE IN NEARLY A YEAR. THEY CONFIDENTLY DO NOT EXPECT THE 150 WHO ESCAPED TO PRESENT A MILITARY THREAT. MOST DO NOT KNOW THE AREA AND WILL STRAGGLE INTO ARMY CAMPS TO SURRENDER, WANTING FOOD AND MEDICAL CARE.
KILLORAN

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30 JUN 2005

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